Decrease of wild animal in Rajasthan

†2800. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of wild animals in the sanctuaries located in Rajasthan is gradually deceasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the plan of Government to improve the management in the sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As informed by the State Government there was no report of gradual decrease in total number of wild animals in the sanctuaries of Rajasthan. However, in some Protected Areas of the State, a decrease in the population of some species of wild animals has been observed.

(b) The main reasons of decrease in number of wild animals are increased biotic pressure on the wild animal habitats, poaching due to high demand and prices of wildife produce in the clandestine international market and increased man-animal conflict.

(c) Following steps have been taken to improve the management in protected areas:

1. Financial and technical assistance are being extended to the State government under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the state for providing effective protection to wild animals. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.
2. Regular training courses in wildlife management are conducted by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for enhancing the skill of the Park Managers.
3. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

4. State Government of Rajasthan has deployed Rajasthan Armed Constabulary and Home Guard personnel in Ranthambhore & Sariska Tiger Reserves for joint patrolling with Forest Guards.

5. Raids are being conducted in premises of suspected poachers.

6. Compensation for loss of human life/injuary and for killing of domestic animals by wild animals has been increased so as to reduce the alienation of the local community.

7. Improvement in habitat is being resorted by creating water holes, developing grasslands, controlling grazing etc.

World Bank report on Ganga Water

2801. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the World Bank report, Ganga water is the source of 9 to 12 per cent of the total disease burden because of its very high level of pollution;

(b) whether since 1980 about Rs. 1500 crores have been spent on the Ganga Action Plan but there has not been much improvement in water quality due to practice of dumping untreated sewage from cities on the banks of the Ganga river and dead bodies and carcasses in the river; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to bring the water back to bathing level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir, As per assistance for improving the water quality of river Ganga, the Central Government has provided assistance of Rs. 451.70 crores under Ganga Action Plan-Phase I (GAP-I) and Rs. 283.40 crores under Ganga Action Plan -Phase II (GAP-II) between 1985 till date, thereby creating Sewage Treatment Plant capacity of 865 mld under GAP-I and 82.59 mld under GAP-II. As per independent studies undertaken by eminent institutes and organizations like IIT, Kanpur, Central Pollution Control Board, and Patna University, there is perceptible improvement in the water quality of the river in terms of Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) despite the significant